

**Remarks**

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3-21, 23-24, 26-29, 31-39, 41-47 and 49-53 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 21, 24, 39, 43, 50, 51 and 53 are amended. Claims 2, 7, 22, 25, 30, 40, 48 and 54 are canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The above amendments correspond to the telephone discussions between the Examiner and Applicants' representative, and correct additional minor informalities noted by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate claim 7, which has been canceled.

Claim 11 is amended as proposed in the Second Amendment and Reply, the Examiner having indicated that claim 11 is allowable in that form.

Claim 24 is amended to incorporate the added language of claim 11.

Claim 39 is amended to incorporate the added language of claim 11 and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 40 (now canceled).

The word "operable" has been removed from all the claims.

The independent claims have been amended to recite "prior stable consistent state."

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BARDMESSER LAW GROUP

/GB/

George S. Bardmesser  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 44,020

Date: December 4, 2006

910 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 293-1191